

California's Water



Each center is unique, focusing on facilities in the area and offering you a glimpse into how water has transformed California's population, agriculture, and industries.



**Thirsty?
Need a break?
Want a view?**

*Stop by one of our
visitors centers,
learn about water,
and have fun at
a nearby lake.*

**It's fun!
It's fabulous!
and it's**

FREE!

For more information:

Call these numbers for operating hours, directions, or any questions regarding the centers.

**Lake Oroville Visitors Center
in Butte County, call (530) 538-2219.**

**Romero Overlook Visitors Center in
Merced County, call (209) 827-5353.**

**Vista Del Lago Visitors Center in Northern
Los Angeles County, call (661) 294-0219.**

**California
Department of
Water Resources**
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Visit DWR's Website at
<http://www.water.ca.gov>

For TTY phone service, call
(916) 653-6226

If you need this publication in an alternate form, contact the
Office of Water Education at 1-800-272-8869.

May 2003



State Water Project Visitors Centers





The California Department of Water Resources invites you to take a break at its three visitors centers, where you begin your journey of discovery about the water you use, and witness how one of the nation's largest water development systems, the State Water Project, was built.

Lake Oroville



At Lake Oroville Visitors Center, travel back to when huge earthmovers and trains helped construct the tallest dam in the U.S. Lake Oroville is the second largest in California and marks the beginning of one of the nation's largest water development and transportation systems.

Through colorful photos and displays, slide shows, films and videos, the story of the State Water Project unfolds.

View the enormous effort of building Oroville Dam, learn how an underground cavern houses the SWP's greatest generating hydroelectric power plant, and discover the lake's appeal as a recreation hot spot.

Climb the stairs of a 47-foot tower to view the lake and Sutter Buttes, one of the world's smallest mountain ranges. Or take a hike to enjoy nature's local scenery.



Romero Overlook

In Romero Overlook Visitors Center, join the crowd that witnessed the ground-breaking ceremony to begin construction of the state-federal San Luis Reservoir. Watch as then-President John F. Kennedy and Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown together pushed the plunger, setting off a line of colorful explosives to demarcate the dam's placement.

Step out onto the balcony and marvel at the structure that stores 663 billion gallons of water, one of the nation's largest offstream reservoirs.

Read about the history of water development, or light up the SWP and the Federal Central Valley Project (CVP) facilities via a fiber optics map.



Vista Del Lago

You can't miss Vista Del Lago's red-tiled roof along Interstate Highway 5. Take a break and step inside into the exciting world of water—learn how it impacts your daily life, why our state's geography and climate influence water's distribution, and learn what the California State Water Project is.

By way of video, you'll fly over the State Water Project. Along the route, you'll see many of its lakes and reservoirs, pumping and power plants. Then learn water's powerful influence on California's history.

From the telescopes on the wrap-around balcony, view Pyramid Lake with its beautiful, steep shoreline and the dam that holds its water until it's needed downstream.